

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES HILGER

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Charles Hilger, a talented artist and dedicated historian, upon the occasion of his retirement as the Director of the Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History (MAH). For twenty years, Mr. Hilger has dedicated his time and energy into building a museum that has become a significant cultural anchor for the Santa Cruz community as well as a quality destination for tourists and visitors. Mr. Hilger's expertise and enthusiasm will be missed by associates and visitors alike.

Mr. Hilger's participation in the art world has stretched to nearly all facets of the Santa Cruz community. Mr. Hilger's passion for art was evident when he was honored as the 1989 Santa Cruz "Artist of the Year." Over the past twenty years, Mr. Hilger transformed a small exhibit of art featured at the public library into the museum we enjoy today, now located at the McPherson Center. He personally recruited a highly professional staff and a dedicated team of docents and volunteers to aid him in managing over 150 installations, representing many diverse expressions of artists from around the world. Despite earthquakes, economic hardships and various other calamities, Mr. Hilger never lost sight of his goal to provide an institution that could educate many generations about the beauty and mystery in the world of art.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to honor the accomplishments of Charles Hilger and express sincere gratitude for his commitment to the community. I wish Mr. Hilger and his family well as he enjoys his much-deserved retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF THE JUDICIAL USE OF DISCRETION TO GUARANTEE EQUITY IN SENTENCING ACT OF 2003

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Judicial Use of Discretion to Guarantee Equity in Sentencing Act of 2003" or "JUDGES Act," legislation that restores the independence and integrity of the federal judiciary by repealing many of the criminal sentencing provisions recently enacted in section 401 of the PROTECT Act of 2003. I am joined by Representatives BERMAN, DELAHUNT, WATT, WATERS, JACKSON-LEE, LINDA SANCHEZ, SANDERS, LEE, McDERMOTT, FILNER, MILLENDER, McDONALD, TUBBS JONES, and HONDA.

Section 401 of the PROTECT Act was passed into law despite the many concerns raised by several legal scholars and experts including, Chief Justice Rehnquist, the U.S. Judicial Conference, the American Bar Association, the Federal Bar Association, the Leadership Council on Civil Rights and various other law school professors and legal commentators. When asked to comment on the legislation, Chief Justice Rehnquist best de-

scribed the major problems with the controversial provisions when he wrote that the, "legislation, if enacted, would do serious harm to the basic structure of the sentencing guideline system and would seriously impair the ability of courts to impose just and responsible sentences."

The JUDGES Act of 2003 seeks to address these concerns by repealing most of the provisions of section 401, except those that specifically deal with the prevention of the exploitation of children. More specifically, the bill repeals the burdensome reporting requirements imposed on judges, restores the "due deference" standard of review, reforms the sentencing guidelines governing the acceptance of responsibility and repeals the changes that section 401 made to the composition of the sentencing commission. The bill also directs the Sentencing Commission to carefully study the issue of downward departures and report its findings to Congress within 180 days.

Judges should be free to impose fair and just sentences completely devoid of the political process. The JUDGES Act of 2003 helps to achieve this goal. I am hopeful that Congress can move quickly to enact this worthwhile and timely legislation.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JIM CULVER

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great man, Mr. Jim Culver. An involved constituent in my district, Mr. Culver will be recognized on June 1, 2003 by Saint Paul's Calvary United Church of God in Union, New Jersey with their Lifetime Achievement Award as Usher of the Year.

An active member of Saint Paul's Calvary United Church for the past thirty-five years, Mr. Culver has served as Secretary of the Usher board for the past thirty-one years. In this capacity he has been a great supporter of all activities of the church as well as lending a helping hand to the entire community of Union. A hard and reliable worker, he continues to give selflessly of himself to all of those whom he encounters.

Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives join me today in recognizing Mr. Jim Culver for his innumerable contributions to the town of Union as well as to his congregation. I wish to congratulate him as he is recognized with the Lifetime Achievement Award as Usher of the Year and wish him the very best for the future.

UNITED STATES LEADERSHIP AGAINST HIV/AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS, AND MALARIA ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2003

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1298, The United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and

Malaria Act of 2003. The statistics on AIDS staggering. According to the United Nations, AIDS has killed over 20 million people since the epidemic began. Every day nearly 14,000 people become infected with HIV, primarily in the developing world and another 8,500 people die.

It's almost too much to comprehend, but we can respond. And we must. Experts say that a strong global response could prevent nearly two-thirds of the 45 million new infections that are projected by 2020, saving tens of millions of lives.

This legislation will strengthen our response to the global AIDS pandemic by improving coordination among relevant U.S. agencies, establishing additional accountability mechanisms, and fostering international cooperation through increased contributions to the multilateral Global Fund to Combat HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. The increased contribution of up to \$1 billion for the Global Fund in FY2004 is accompanied by a 33 percent cap on the U.S. contribution to challenge other donor countries to match our increased commitment.

The promises made in H.R. 1298, however, must be matched by real resources. Planning and coordination alone will not solve this monumental crisis. Prevention and treatment require money. This is a good first step, now we must appropriate the funds necessary to enact this plan and demonstrate the depth of our commitment to the world.

H.R. 1298 authorizes \$15 billion for our multilateral and bilateral efforts, including \$3 billion in FY2004. Unfortunately, the Bush budget provides only \$1.6 billion in FY2004, with only \$200 million going to the Global Fund. We must do better.

I also have deep reservations about the provision that gives abstinence programs a third of USAID's prevention funding. This crisis is too severe and our response is too critical to let our efforts be undermined by catering to ideological pressure.

The fight against AIDS is far from over, and this legislation provides an important opportunity to strengthen our commitment to a future where AIDS is no longer a threat. I urge my colleagues to support the motion to concur.

HONORING THE CITY AND PEOPLE OF SUN PRAIRIE, WI

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the city and people of Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, and their celebration of the life and work of one of the most important artists of the 20th Century, Georgia O'Keeffe.

Georgia O'Keeffe was born on a small dairy farm right outside the city of Sun Prairie—near Highway T and Town Hall Road—on November 15, 1887. She grew up on the farm together with her parents and six siblings. While growing up she received art lessons both at home and at school, and she was certain she wanted to be an artist by the age of nine. As Georgia's artistic ability grew, she began to receive more advanced training in art, and it eventually became an important part of her life.